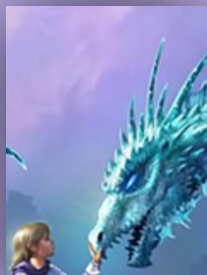




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# A Dragon Taming Me



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## Chapter 1 by celloandjello

"Iris Griffin, choose your dragon."

I looked at all the dragons lined up in front of me. Felt their dark eyes boring into me. Daring me to choose.

The Sky Dragon, known for her swiftness. The Earth Dragon, known for his loyalty. The Water Dragon, known for her gentleness. The Fire Dragon, known for his tendency towards destruction. The Lightning Dragon, known for his battle prowess. The Night Dragon, known for her cunning and excellent hiding skills.

My gaze traveled down the line, searching for the one dragon that is to be mine. It landed on the last dragon in line, the Ice Dragon.

His black eyes looked at me steadily. I felt somehow drawn to those ice cold eyes.

The Ice Dragon isn't known in particular for anything. Except for wearing out his dragon mages. This one was always known as trouble. But I felt it. His wildness. The raw power hidden behind

those scales.

He's the one.

I stepped forward to him.

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I could see the wizard instructors raising eyebrows. It was well known that the every dragon mage that had chosen the Ice Dragon had eventually given up and quit. Furthermore, I was the first of this Astus's seven dragon mages to choose. Usually the one who was stuck with the Ice Dragon was the last to choose, who didn't have a choice.

Oh, you don't know what's going on? Figures. I haven't explained very much.

Every 30 years in the country of Asteria, seven 15 year-olds are chosen to train as Dragon Mages. This is called the Astus. When you get chosen, a dragon tattoo appears on your right forearm. It's a very, very high honor to be chosen as a Dragon Mage. People don't really know how you get chosen. It just happens.

The previous Dragon Mages retire and go do whatever old Dragon Mages do. If a current Dragon Mage dies or quits, then a previous Dragon Mage would have to volunteer to fill in for him. If no one does, then, that dragon is kept in till the next Astus. (The dragons are immortal.)

When you choose your dragon, you start learning magic of the dragon's element. For example, if you chose the Fire Dragon, you learn fire magic. If you chose the Water Dragon, you learn water magic. And so forth.

Of course you learn how to get along with your dragon, train him or her to your personal, um, style. You learn how to take care of, ride, and fight with him or her.

It's the Dragon Mages's job to protect Asteria with their magic and dragons from any type of threat.

The dragons are supposedly to become your best friend. During every Astus, when the new Dragon Mages choose their dragons and the previous Dragon Mages say goodbye, there's always a few tears shed by the previous Dragon Mages. They say it's like a hole is being torn in your heart.

But everyone who got stuck with the Ice Dragon always quit. Or got killed by him. Sometimes not by accident. He's just too rowdy. And disobedient. And wild. No one's ever lasted their entire 20 years with him.

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## Chapter 2 by Florenceia



I saw Iris walk up to the Ice Dragon and I saw her arm flash a brilliant blue. Her tattoo was beautiful, a symphony of swirls and jagged lines that traced the design of the Ice Dragon and it's rider, her. Then she disappeared. No one looked worried, so I paid her no mind. I was appalled at her choice; no one lasts more than ten years with the Ice Dragon, let alone the full twenty. They all retired before then. She can be no different. Though I had only known her for a few minutes I didn't expect anything extraordinary from this petite girl with the fierce eyes.

"Saba Denter, choose your dragon!" my name was called.

On shaking legs I stood up and made my way up to the front and faced the dragons. The remaining 6 stared at me. Water, Sky, Earth, Lighting, Night, and Fire. Gentleness, Swiftiness, Loyalty, Battle, Destruction, and Cunning. This had to be the hardest decision of my life.

I was from a small farming village, Montorsy, up in the mountains of Erodite and it was the most unexpected thing getting called to be a Dragon Mage, though in the past we had a total of 7. How could they expect a 15 year old to choose the right dragon. I couldn't possibly make the right decision. Water, Night, Fire, and Sky just didn't seem right. Lightning and Earth...Lightning and Earth...Lightning and Earth...Earth.

"I choose the Earth Dragon!" I called out, my voice cracking slightly.

Loyalty and friendship, strong like the earth itself I could work with this fellow.

Back strait and sweaty fists clenching my knee length green dress I made my way to my future companion.

I bowed to him and in return he bowed his head to me. I stretched out my arm and waited for the tattoo to appear on my arm. It wasn't as simple as that. Pain spread the length of my arm and the blinding green light covered everything in sight. The light burned through my closed lids. It dimmed as quickly as it had started. I opened my eyes to find I was no longer in the open courtyard of the training grounds, but that I was in a forest.

I glanced down on my arm. Unlike Iris's tattoo mine didn't wrap around my forearm. Black, brown, and green drawings appeared on my entire body. The dragon's head rested on my right arm it's tail wrapped around my left leg. Images of trees, rocks, and vines twisted around my skin, coiling on my left arm, peeking onto my collarbone, and burning into my right leg. I peeked

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## Chapter 3 by Kemo-sabi



Saba Denter that's a name I'll have to remember. She will be a great ally or formidable foe. Only the gods know.

'I tire of being here.' The voice wasn't spoken but instead in my head.

"We are staying for the rest of the ceremony," I commanded.

'Foolish mortal you do not possess the strength to order me,' even before he finish he was arching his back getting ready to take off. I wrapped my arms around the base of his neck so I wouldn't fall off. He tore through the sky, twisting and turning.

My heart pumped with adrenaline, "I will tame you, Ice Dragon." I spoke with confidence but truth be told it took all my might to not fall to my death.

'I am not the one who needs to learn, young human.' The Ice Dragon eased his flight, as he gracefully glided through the air he reared his head towards me. 'I am the master and you are my acolyte.'

## Chapter 4 by Maxwell White



I watched as Saba Denter stood beside her dragon, like Iris Griffin before her, both seemed to still be rather nervous.

Which reminds me, both of these people will make fine friends. And finer allies over the next twenty years.

"Oderok Ilomor, the time has come to pick your dragon!"

I walked up to the line, and counted them in my head...

Water, Night, Fire and sky. Four dragons waiting for the chance to fly.

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Now, the choice.

I stood before the four last dragons. Took a deep breath, closed my eyes.

This is something I rarely talk to anyone about. I was born under the three full moons, which is regarded as some sort of blessing from the gods. I never really belied what the priestess told me, until now. Because of this, I have a natural ability to see what people are like. And there has been a few occasions that I have saved someone's life by doing this "light magic". So, there is no better opportunity than to give me a little more information on the dragons before I pick one. I know this may seem like cheating, but if you have an ability, shouldn't you use it else it would fade away?

I looked towards the Water dragon. and noticed the bright blue light around it. Seemed clam on the surface, but could be a formidable match against an opponent.

The Night seemed to be rather inquisitive, and knowledgeable beyond its years, this is definitely something to consider if I could learn it's teachings of the Magika I could learn from such.

Fire, beauty and grace, giving the gentle touch like a mothers comfort for her children.

However, a great power lay within this, but great control.

Sky. A great will of freedom and happiness emanated from this dragon, with a strange obsession with balance and justice.

I opened my eyes. "I choose the Night dragon!" I exclaimed, before i approached him. It was a beautiful dragon, with dark glistening scales like someone had poured tiny flecks of gold onto it's coal-like scales.

I rose my hand and patted him on the nose.

"I am willing to learn, dragon, all that you are willing to teach."

The dragon looked down at me with one large coal coloured eye.

"We will learn a great many things beyond the limits of any magika, young one"

And my choosing and fate was set.

Chapter 5 by Kadira



3 more dragons, 3 more humans.

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with one of them was so a

the fact that I would get to bond

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"Leyla Marish, pick your dragon!"

I stepped forward, gazing up at the three giant reptiles. Water, Fire, and Sky. I started twirling a strand of my short auburn hair. How would I choose.

The Sky Dragon seemed restless, eager to soar and fly swiftly. I could relate. I was an orphan, and had found my passion in flying on the trapeze with my circus. I loved the freedom and adrenaline from that experience.

The Fire dragon seemed to radiate power. I felt like he could destroy cities with a single breath of fire. I had always wanted to be more powerful, to do something, but I was afraid I couldn't control this much power.

The Water dragon looked calm, but I knew that she could make a great tempest when needed. I felt like her power was more controlled and would suit me more.

I felt a pull towards one dragon in particular, and met her gaze before making the decision.

"I choose the Sky Dragon!" I said, as loud as I could. Then I turned to face my partner and looked into her sky blue eyes, exactly the same shade as mine. Her golden scales glittered in the sun.

Then, I felt pain like never before and bit back a scream. The pain concentrated on my right arm and then it was gone. I pushed up the sleeve of my light yellow tunic and saw a tattoo of a golden dragon with blue eyes, the Sky Dragon, and its rider, a girl dressed in gold mail, with short, auburn hair blowing in a wind, me. The tattoo was decorated with swirls and wavy lines in varying colors.

I pushed back down my sleeve and walked up to the Sky Dragon.

"Hello, little human," a soft, female voice purred.

"Hello, Sky Dragon," I said, looking the dragon right in the eyes. She lowered her head and looked at me.

"We will learn much together, little one," she said, baring her teeth in an attempted smile. "I am glad we are together."

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Chapter 6 by The Writer

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Two dragons left, and one will be mine.

"Garret Agreste," called a lady that I assumed was in charge. I stepped forward to choose my dragon, the dragons I have been studying for years. Why? Well I guess I'll have to explain.

My name is Garret, Prince of Airien. Anyone who lives in the Dragon World knows that Airien is the capital, the grand kingdom. My father, the king, is part of a family that is connected with dragons, which probably is why my family took the throne. Anyway, every few generation has had at least one Dragon Mage. So you can guess why my father would force us to learn about them. But I guess it was worth it, now I stand face to face with the Water and Fire dragon.

I look at them one by one, staring into their eyes to find a connection. 'Well, which one reminds you of you, Garret?' I thought to myself. As a prince, I always wanted to be kind and gentle, like a Water Dragon.

'Wow, that was a stupid line' I thought.

"Shut up!" I said aloud by accident. The people watching stared at me like I was mental. I turned red and rubbed the back of my neck. Then I realized, that wasn't me talking. I look back at the dragons and see the Fire Dragon grinning at me. 'Was that him speaking to me?' I thought.

'Well, duh!' the voice said again, 'Then again, anyone would think you were stupid.'

'For a wise, old dragon, you are pretty rude,' I thought. But I had to admit, he seemed like he would be a fun companion. And honestly, he was different then other people he had met. People had always treated me different because I was a Prince.

'How would you like to be my companion?' I thought/asked him.

'Sure, as long as you don't do any more cheesy lines,' he thought back and smiled.

'Haha.'

"Mr. Agreste, we don't have all day," said the lady in charge.

"Oh, um, I choose the Fire Dragon," I announced.

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'Good choice,' said the dragon. A surge of pain went all along my arm. I cringed and saw the pain would ease.

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Then, it stopped. I opened my eyes and found I wasn't in the courtyard, I was in a forest with the other Dragon Mages.

"How.." I was about to ask the others when an old man approached me. He stared at me.

"Welcome Garret the Fire Rider."

## Chapter 7 by Barbara



Being the last to be called forward in a way meant my choice was the easiest of all...Because I didn't have a choice at all. Part of me liked it that way, but the other part hated it. I could only hope this water dragon was the right dragon for me. After all, I had kind of longed for the fire one...

"Love doesn't always happen on first sight, my dear, neither does friendship."

I looked up, knowing it was the water dragon that was speaking to me. Being the calmest and gentle, there wasn't a hint of anger, disappointment or resentment of me in her eyes.

"Frigg Danae, please step forward to your dragon..."

The voice was sounding tiresome, like I had managed to drown him out entirely and he was reaching the end of his composure.

"Um..yes, off course."

I stepped forward till I was standing face to face with her and gave her a soft smile.

"May I be the student you deserve."

"I'm sure you'll be, love."

My level of pain was like the measuring of speed of a car. Coming from 0 to over a hundred in a matter of seconds, that's what I mean with that comparison. Though for some reason, I couldn't

take my eyes off it as it took his shape on my arm. It was a darker shade of blue with all kinds of swirls that were both pretty as well as powerful.

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were supposed to do now. Start learning? I kind of was looking forward to learning stuff for once!

## Chapter 8 by Selene S



Iris Griffin stood before her Ice Dragon, having recently returned from their impromptu flight; Saba Denter before the Earth, covered from head to toe in colo(u)r; Oderok Ilomor before the Night, quietly observing, gaining insight into his fellow chosen; circus orphan Leyla Marish before the Sky Dragon, feeling confident in her choice; Garret Agreste before the Fire Dragon, the Prince of Airien mentally bantering with his new companion; and finally Frigg Danae before the Water, looking forward to whatever happened next.

In the middle of their formed circle a light began to glow, brighter and brighter, and when it died down a figure dressed in indiscernible clothing appeared and a voice spoke: "welcome Trainee Dragon Mages. Your journey is only beginning. From here you will train individually with your chosen dragon for 6 days and rest here together on the 7th until your dragon sees it fit to advance your training. Lodging is over yonder," the figure nodded to the west "for now, meet each other and your chosen. Training begins tomorrow."

The figure vanished in a flash of colo(u)r.

(To continue this story I will be posting "A Dragon Taming Me Part 2", the first chapter being a summary of this story, or whatever is chosen as the last chapter.)

the end

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